

AMENDMENTS

In The Claims:

Please rewrite Claim 1 as follows:

1. (Amended) A computer-implemented substitute fulfillment system that identifies and secures substitute workers for a plurality of different organizations comprising:

a central server that automatically processes information associated with a plurality of different unaffiliated organizations;

a central database coupled to the central server, the central database including worker records that store substitute fulfillment data associated with each of the plurality of different organizations, wherein for each of the different organizations the fulfillment data includes worker records representing workers that may be absent from the organization and substitute worker records representing substitute workers that may be used to fill the position of absent workers;

B1 a plurality of local processors that are remote from the central server, each of the local processors being associated with one of the different organizations and having a separate local database coupled thereto, wherein each local database is associated with one of the different organizations and includes worker records representing workers that may be absent from the organization and substitute worker records representing substitute workers that may be used to fill a position of an absent worker;

wherein the central database maintains each of the records on each local database in parallel with a corresponding record on the central database by periodically updating the records on the local databases in response to data changes on the central database, and wherein each local database maintains records on the central database, and wherein each local database maintains records on the central database in parallel with corresponding records on the local database by periodically updating the records on the central database in response to data changes on the local database;

at least one communication link coupled to the central server, wherein the communication link provides information representing absent workers to the central server;

wherein the central server automatically generates a list of one or more substitute workers for each absent worker in response to the information representing absent workers, the central server automatically communicates information representing positions to be filled to substitute workers identified by the central server via a telephone communication

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link or an internet communication link, the central server contacting the identified substitute workers in each list until one of the substitute workers in each list agrees to cover for the absent worker or until each list of substitute workers is exhausted; and

wherein the central server periodically transmits reports that include absentee and substitute information to each of the different organizations via the telephone communication link or the internet communication link.

Following, please find a marked up copy of claim 1.

1. (Amended) A computer-implemented substitute fulfillment system that identifies and secures substitute workers for a plurality of different organizations comprising:

a central server that [process] automatically processes information associated with a plurality of different unaffiliated organizations;

a central database coupled to the central server, the central database including worker records that store substitute fulfillment data associated with each of the plurality of different organizations, wherein for each of the different organizations the fulfillment data includes worker records representing workers that may be absent from the organization and substitute worker records representing substitute workers that may be used to fill the position of absent workers;

a plurality of local processors that are remote from the central server, each of the local processors being associated with one of the different organizations and having a separate local database coupled thereto, wherein each local database is associated with one of the different organizations and includes worker records representing workers that may be absent from the organization and substitute worker records representing substitute workers that may be used to fill a position of an absent worker;

wherein the central database maintains each of the records on each local database in parallel with a corresponding record on the central database by periodically updating the records on the local databases in response to data changes on the central database, and wherein each local database maintains records on the central database, and wherein each local database maintains records on the central database in parallel with corresponding records on the local database by periodically updating the records on the central database in response to data changes on the local database;

at least one communication link coupled to the central server, wherein the communication link provides information representing absent workers to the central server[.];

wherein the central server automatically [identifies] generates a list of one or more [of the] substitute workers for each absent worker in response to the information representing absent workers, the central server automatically communicates information representing positions to be filled to substitute workers identified by the central server via a telephone communication link or an internet communication link, the central server contacting the identified substitute workers in each list until one of the substitute workers in

each list agrees to cover for the absent worker or until each list of substitute workers is exhausted; and

wherein the central server periodically transmits reports that include absentee and substitute information to each of the different organizations via the telephone communication link or the internet communication link.